The Cleveland Museum of Art

Press Release

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SELECTIONS FROM THE BEQUEST OF MRS. A. DEAN PERRY TO BE EXHIBITED

(Cleveland, OH) Opening Saturday, April 19, 1997, at the Cleveland Museum of Art is **The Fragrance of Ink: Chinese and Japanese Paintings from the Collection of Mrs. A. Dean Perry**. This memorial exhibition highlights twelve of the late Mrs. Perry's most significant Asian paintings—album leaves, hanging scrolls, a handscroll, and a two-fold screen. The show will remain open through August 3, 1997.

One of the museum's most devoted benefactresses, Mrs. Perry acquired these works with the museum in mind for private display in her home until her death. Most are painted with ink and color on paper or silk. She acquired most of them in the 1960s in consultation with then-museum director Sherman E. Lee and then-Chinese curator Wai-kam Ho. Mrs. Perry's Chinese album paintings of the 12th-13th centuries, as well as her hanging and handscrolls of the 14th-15th centuries, were the most important private collection of such works then known in the West, attracting scholars and collectors of Chinese painting from all over the world to her Shaker Heights house. The Yuan dynasty (1279-1368) examples include acknowledged landmarks, not only of the lifework of such artists as Chen Ruyan and Wang Meng but also of that momentous era in the history of Chinese painting. Her Japanese paintings include important works by Sesshū and other masters of the 16th-18th centuries.

These are among fifty-nine Asian and European works—paintings, prints, drawings, sculptures, and decorative objects—given to the museum from Mrs. Perry's estate. They join an invaluable group of over seventy other works she gave the museum over five decades, beginning with a Chinese vase in 1944 and concluding with a series of three photographs by Hiroshi Sugimoto in 1994. Among her most celebrated gifts is the 16th-century Indian (Mughal) *Tuti-nama* manuscript.

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Helen Wade Greene Perry (1911-1996) was the granddaughter of Jeptha H. Wade II, one of the museum's founders. Her late husband served as treasurer and in other leadership positions on the museum's board of trustees for twenty-three years beginning in 1960. **The Fragrance of Ink** was added to the museum's exhibition schedule after Mrs. Perry's bequest came to the museum following her death last November. It is being installed as one of the quarterly "rotations" of delicate works of art in gallery 113, a room usually devoted to later Japanese art. Michael Cunningham, curator of Japanese and Korean art, has selected the works. Marjorie Williams, acting director of education, will give gallery talks at 6:30 pm on two summer Wednesday evenings, July 9 and 30.

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